Refinery plant from a capacity of 31,000 to 1,00,000 tpa at a projected cost of Rs. 506.68 crores. The proposal is at the appraisal stage.

India's Position in World Tourism

1854. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in world tourism is still less in comparison to other countries although it has the great potential;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to make any provision for the promotion of tourism in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The percentage share of India in the world tourist traffic during 1995 was about 0.37. It is not commensurate with the potential that exists because of infrastructural constraints.

(c) to (e). Steps being taken to increase the share of India in the world tourism traffic includes improvement of infrastructural facilities particularly by attracting private investment, focussing of publicity and marketing efforts and development of manpower resources. The Report of the Working Group on Tourism Development for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been submitted to the Planning Commission

AIR Officials

1855. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted an enquiry against AIR officials at Silchar in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the Quilty officials;

(c) whether some officials of the AIR Station are also implicated in this enquiry and are being victimised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation have recently registered a criminal case against an official of AIR, Silchar on 15th May, 1996 for allegedly taking a bribe. Since the concerned officer was detained for a period exceeding 48 hours on criminal charge, he has been placed under deemed suspension as a result of departmental action.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes

1856. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of welfare schemes which are wholly or partially financed by the Union Government for the poors, aged, widows and helpless; and

(b) the number of persons benefited from these schemes during each of the last three years till date, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The following Central Schemes are meant for the poor, aged, widows and helpless persons :

1. *National Social Assistance Programme consisting of the following schemes* :
   (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)
   (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)
   (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is a Centrally Sponsored Programme in the area of poverty alleviation both in the rural and urban areas, to extend 100% Central assistance to the States/Union Territories to provide benefit under it in accordance with the norms/guidelines and conditions laid down by the Central Government. The NSAP introduces a National Policy for social assistance to poor households. Benefits are provided to them in case of old age, on the death of the primary bread winner of the household and on maternity. The NSAP has came into effect from 15.8.95. This Scheme is being administered by Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Deptt. of Rural Development).

2. *Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged*.

Under this Scheme voluntary organisations are given 90% grant-in-aid (95% in tribal areas) for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-Institutional Services for the Welfare of aged.

(b) Statement-I indicating the number of beneficiaries under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) during 1995-96 as available is attached. Statement-II indicating the number of beneficiaries under the Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is also attached.